

Application no. 09/881,295
Amdt. dated July 6, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 7, 2006

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3. This sheet replaces the original Fig. 3 sheet. Text in Figure 3 has been moved to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(3).

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A. INTRODUCTION

In the Office action of April 7, 2006:

- Claims 7, 9-11, 16-18, 20, 22, 25, 27, and 29-30 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Maeda (US Patent No. 6,791,703);
- Claims 8 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda in view of McCoy et al. (US Patent No. 6,526,575);
- Claim 19 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda in view of Damouth (US Patent No. 5,333,255);
- Claims 23 and 28 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda in view of Buxton et al. (US Patent No. 6,469,714); and
- Claims 24 and 26 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda in view of Tilt (US Patent 5,363,481).

B. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102(e)

Applicant submits that claims 7, 9-11, 16-18, 20, 22, 25, 27, and 29-30 of the present application are *patently distinguishable* with respect to Maeda because the scheduler disclosed in the reference is distinguishably different from the timer as claimed.

As to amended Claim 7, Applicant respectfully submits that the timer has been clarified, such that the timer is *associated with when the proxy interface is displayed*. This amendment is supported in the specification, for example, in paragraph [0025] /page 5 lines 3-10. Contrasting this to Maeda, the scheduler of Maeda is not associated with when the proxy interface is displayed.

The Office Action states Maeda discloses the “timeout timer . . .” in column 9, lines 20-68. Furthermore, the Office Action states that it is “inherent that there is a timer within the scheduler.” The cited reference lines relate to *scheduling* web pull print functions and NOT to timer(s) associated with the interface.

To further explain, Applicant respectfully submits that the scheduler in Maeda is employed to schedule when a “web pull print operation” is to be performed (Maeda, col. 9, lns. 19-54). The scheduler supports an immediate execution mode, a time designation mode, and a periodically cyclic mode (Maeda, col. 9, lns. 25-28). The “web pull print function” is disclosed as a “function whereby the digital copier 1 actively accesses the WWW sever 10 to obtain HTML data, and employs the data for printing using the printer” (Maeda, col. 6 lns. 45-48). The HTML data that is utilized by the web pull print function is indicated as a “URL” 502 (col. 7, lns. 12-17 and Fig. 6). The “enable schedule” 534 in Maeda is shown in Fig. 10 (col. 7, lns. 7-8; col. 9, lns. 20-28, Fig. 10) and is “used for the digital copier 1 . . . to initiate the Web Pull Print operation at a specific time, and to periodically repeat a Web Pull Print request received from a user” (Maeda, col. 9, lns. 20-24).

Maeda further discloses that when the print utility is activated, Fig. 6 is displayed to “*set the items,*” including the URL (Maeda, col. 9, lns. 57-59, emphasis added). To set the other items, a user has to depress the “Print Setup” button 601 on Fig. 6, which then calls or displays Fig. 7 (Maeda, col. 10, lns. 1-3, Figs. 6 and 7). When the “Schedule” tab of Fig. 7 is depressed, Fig. 10 is then shown (Maeda, col. 10, lns. 4-6, Figs. 7 and 10). The steps in setting up a schedule in Fig. 10 is also described (Maeda, col. 10, lns. 23-67). “[W]hen an “OK” button 606 or a “Cancel” button 607 is pressed on the operating screen in FIGS. 8 to 10, the operating screen is returned to that in FIG. 6” (Maeda, col. 10, lns. 6-9). “When the user *completes all the setups and depresses the “Print” button 604* on the operating screen in FIG. 6, the print utility *transmits the setups* to the digital copier” (Maeda, col. 10, lns. 65-67 emphasis added, col. 6 lns. 57-61).

Applicant respectfully submits that Figs. 6 to 10 of Maeda disclose interfaces where users may enter web pull print function settings. Once the set-up process is complete and the “Print” button is depressed, the settings are transmitted to the digital copier. Applicant respectfully submits that nowhere in Maeda does it teach that the timer be associated with any of the displayed interfaces. If the timer is started, it is more likely based on when or after the “Print”

button is depressed rather than associated with when Fig. 6 is displayed, because it is when the “Print” button is depressed when the settings for the web pull print function are transmitted for monitoring or scheduling.

Maeda also does not teach that the timer upon expiration be operable to execute a print task. The web pull print function of Maeda relates to, based on certain conditions, first pulling data from a URL based on the transmitted settings (Maeda, Fig. 26 box S504, Fig. 28, col. 17 ln. 25 – col. 18 ln. 65). Thus, it may be argued that the print task is executable based on the successful pulling of information from a URL, rather than based on the timer or even the interface. For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claim 7 is patently distinguishable from Maeda and should be allowed.

Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 9-11, which depend on the above base claim, incorporate similar features to that of the base claims with further clarification, and thus are also patently distinguishable for the reasons presented above.

As to Claim 16, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 16 is also patently distinguishable from Maeda, similar to the discussion above. Furthermore, the Office action cites col. 9, lns. 20-68 and that a timer is inherent within the schedule as a basis to state that Maeda teaches the step of *starting a timer when the proxy interface is displayed*. Applicant respectfully traverses this basis and submits that the cited lines do not teach the claim limitation. As discussed above, Maeda does not teach starting a timer when any of the interfaces, e.g., Fig. 6-10, is displayed. A timer, if even started, may logically inferred—if even, to occur only when or after **the “Print” button is depressed**, thereby indicating acceptance of the settings provided in the various interfaces, e.g., Figs. 6-10 (Maeda, col. 10, lns. 65-68). Furthermore, Claim 16 also includes the limitation “if the timer expires *without* the proxy interface receiving a proxy interface input, executing the print task using the settings associated with the print task.” By depressing the “Print” button, an *input* is actually received, thus the Maeda’s teaching is contrary to what is claimed. For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 16 is patently distinguishable with respect to Maeda and thus should also be allowed.

As to Claims 17-18, 20, 22, and 25, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims depend on the above base claim (Claim 16) and incorporate similar features to that of the base claims with further clarification, and thus are also patently distinguishable for the reasons presented above.

Furthermore, Claim 17 includes the limitation—“if the proxy interface *input* is received prior to the expiration of the timer, providing a user interface adapted to receive one or more changes associated with the settings and to *stop* the timer.” Applicant respectfully submits that Maeda teaches contrary to what is claimed. If a proxy interface input is received, for example, the “Print” button being depressed, Maeda does not teach stopping the timer. Rather, it may be argued, as discussed above, that the timer is started or set in a mode ready for initiation.

As to Claim 27, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 27 is also patently distinguishable from Maeda, similar to the discussion above. Claim 27 includes the limitation “a timer adapted to start when the proxy interface is displayed, wherein if the timer expires without the proxy interface receiving the proxy interface input, executing the print task....” As discussed above, Maeda’s teaching is contrary to what is claimed.

As to Claims 29-30, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims depend on the above base claim (Claim 27) and incorporate similar features to that of the base claims with further clarification, and thus are also patently distinguishable for the reasons presented above.

Because Maeda does not teach the limitations of Claims 7, 9-11, 16-18, 20, 22, 25, 27, and 29-30, these claims are patently distinguishable and thus should all be allowed.

C. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103(a)

As to Claims 8, 21, 19, 23, 28, 24, and 26, considering that the Office Action uses Maeda in combination with another reference, and Maeda does not teach the limitations of the base

claims and may be construed contrary to the claim limitations, the combination of Maeda with other prior art would also fail or be improper under 35 USC § 103(a), as discussed in section B above.

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 8, 21, 19, 23, 28, 24, and 26 are patently distinguishable and therefore should also all be allowed.

D. CONCLUSION

For all the forgoing reasons, Applicant submits that ALL claims be **allowed**. Furthermore, no new matter has been added by the amendments. Should there be any other fees due for this action, your office is authorized to draw from the firm deposit account number 023979. Should you have any questions, or identify any problem, I would appreciate a telephone call so that this matter may be resolved promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____



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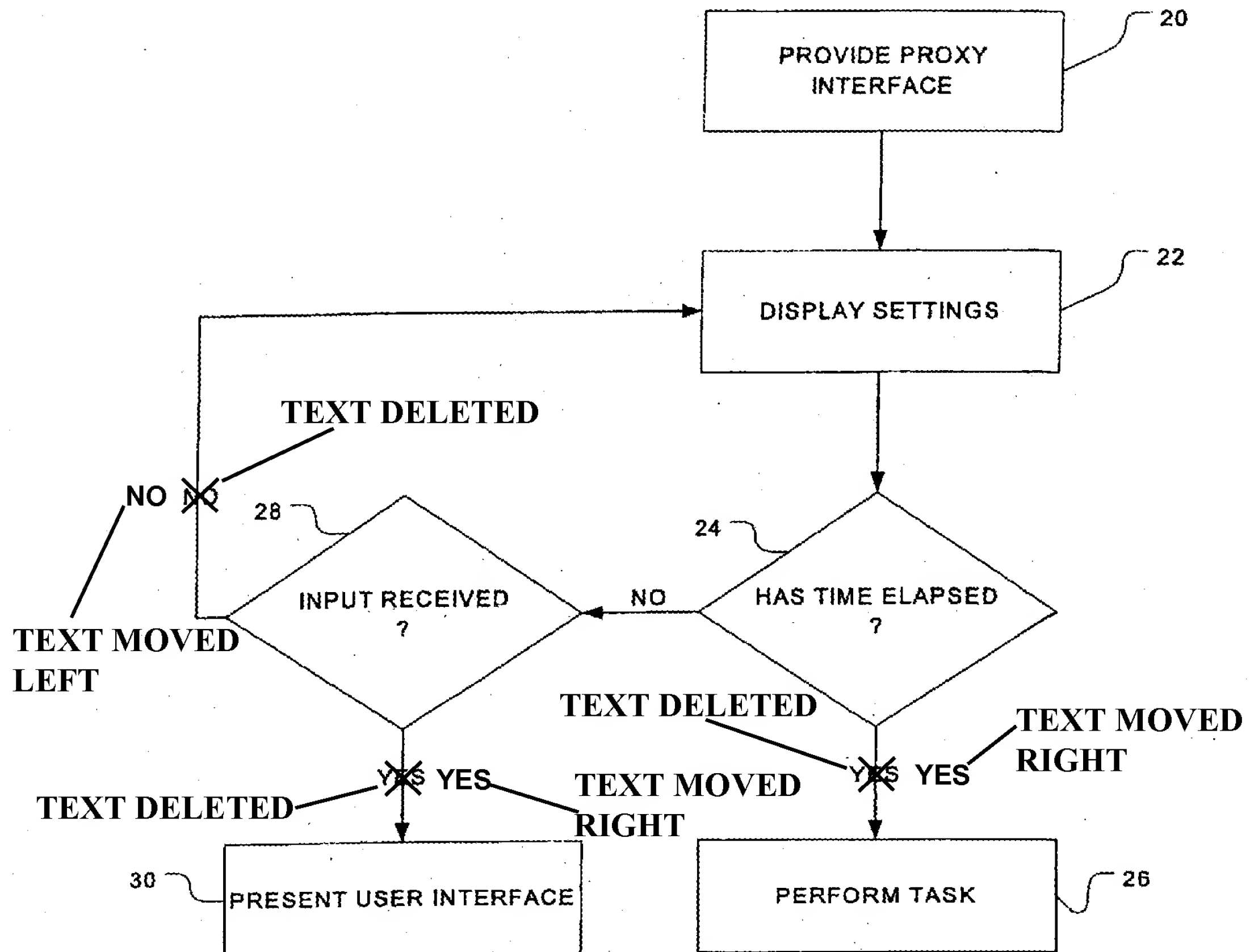


Figure 3